

Amendment to the Specification:

Replace the Abstract on page 20 as follows:

--A method of partitioning an integrated circuit design for physical design verification includes steps of[[: (a)]] receiving as input a representation of an integrated circuit design having a number of physical design layers[[: (b)]] and ~~receiving as input~~ a composite run deck specifying rule checks to be performed on the integrated circuit design. The[[: (c)]] ~~partitioning the composite run deck~~ is partitioned into partitioned run decks so that the number of physical design layers referenced by each of the partitioned run decks is a minimum. The[[: (d)]] ~~parsing the representation of the integrated circuit design~~ is parsed to filter only the physical design layers required for each of the partitioned run decks into a filtered data deck for each of the partitioned run decks. The[[:]] ~~and (e) generating as output the filtered data deck~~ is generated as output for each of the partitioned run decks.--